2007 EPA Community Involvement Training Conference

Libraries as Environmental Information Centers:

How to Maximize Community Collaborations

For copies of this presentation

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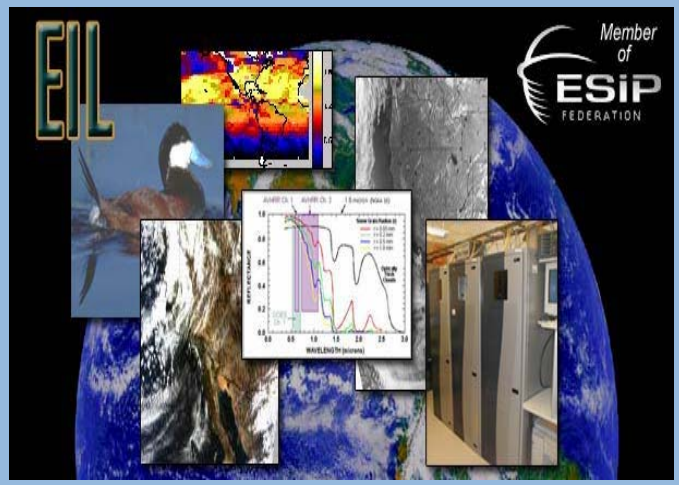
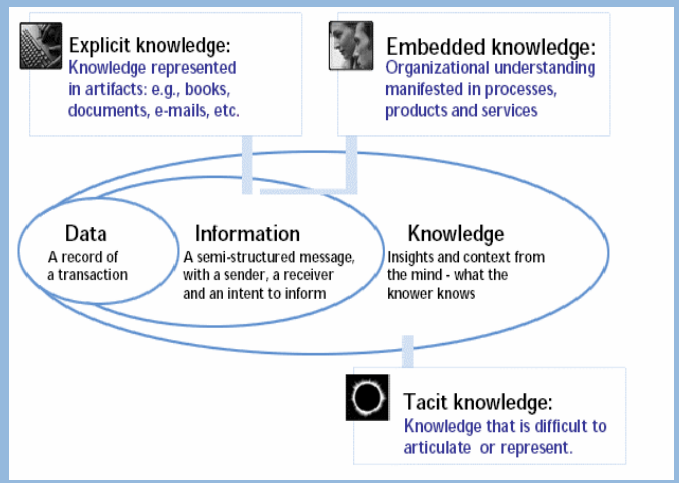
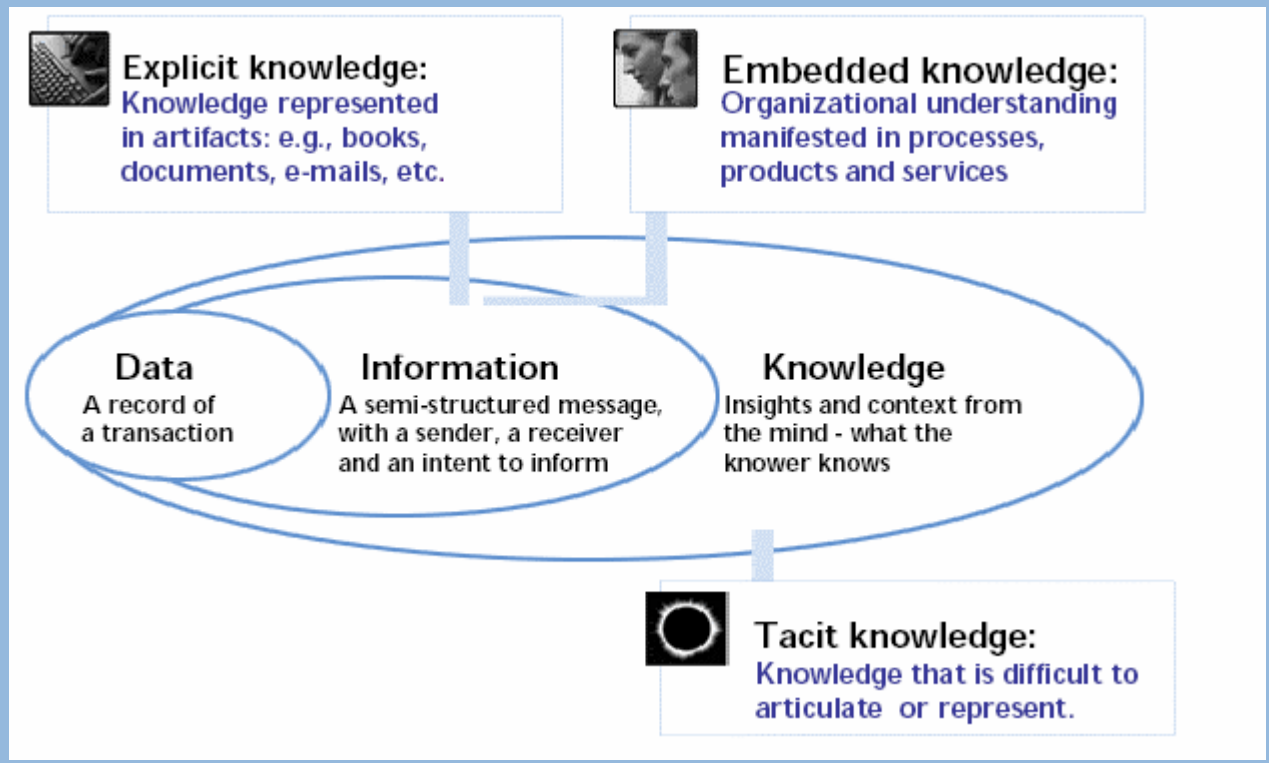
Environmental Information

- " ...is the process that transfers data and information from source to user in any field of knowledge or activity applicable to environmental problem solving." (Dosa)





Closer look...

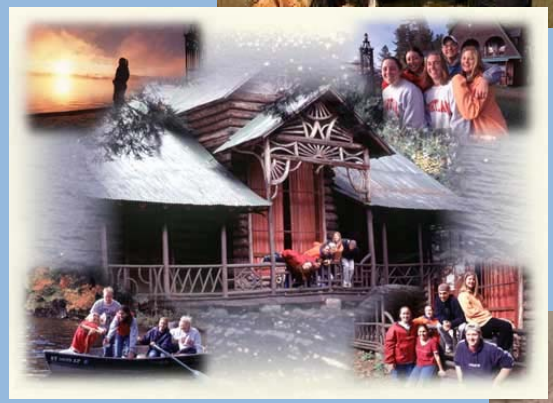

Explicit knowledge:
Knowledge represented in artifacts: e.g., books, documents, e-mails, etc.
Embedded knowledge:
Organizational understanding manifested in processes, products and services
Data
A record of a transaction
Information
A semi-structured message, with a sender, a receiver and an intent to inform
Knowledge
Insights and context from the mind - what the knower knows
Tacit knowledge:
Knowledge that is difficult to articulate or represent.

Your Environmental Proposal or Program or Project

- Need to SHARE information or Data
- Need to COMMUNICATE on progress and results
- Need to EDUCATE a stakeholder group
- Need to DEVELOP or IMPLEMENT an idea

You need to PROVIDE Environmental ICE

Information
Communication
Education



Did you include you library or librarians in your proposal?

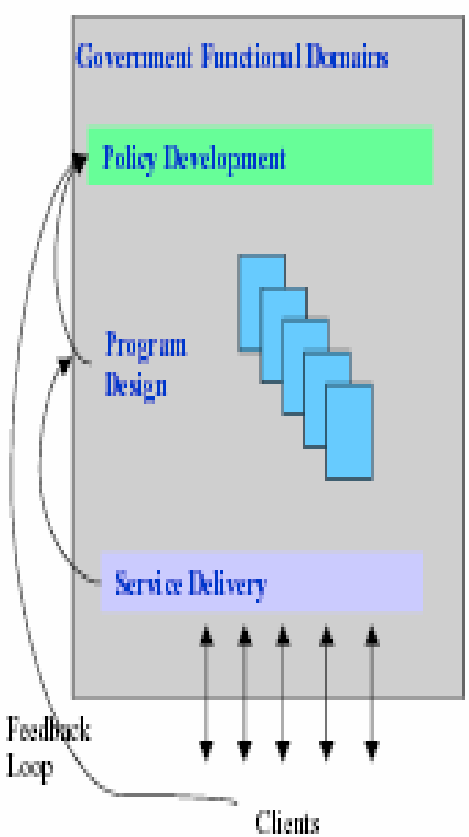
- **My Home Library Network**
  - **Rochester Regional Library Council**
    - 5 counties
    - 450 libraries
    - Continuing education
    - Shared resources
    - Shared collections
    - Community outreach
    - Advocacy
    - Community Partner

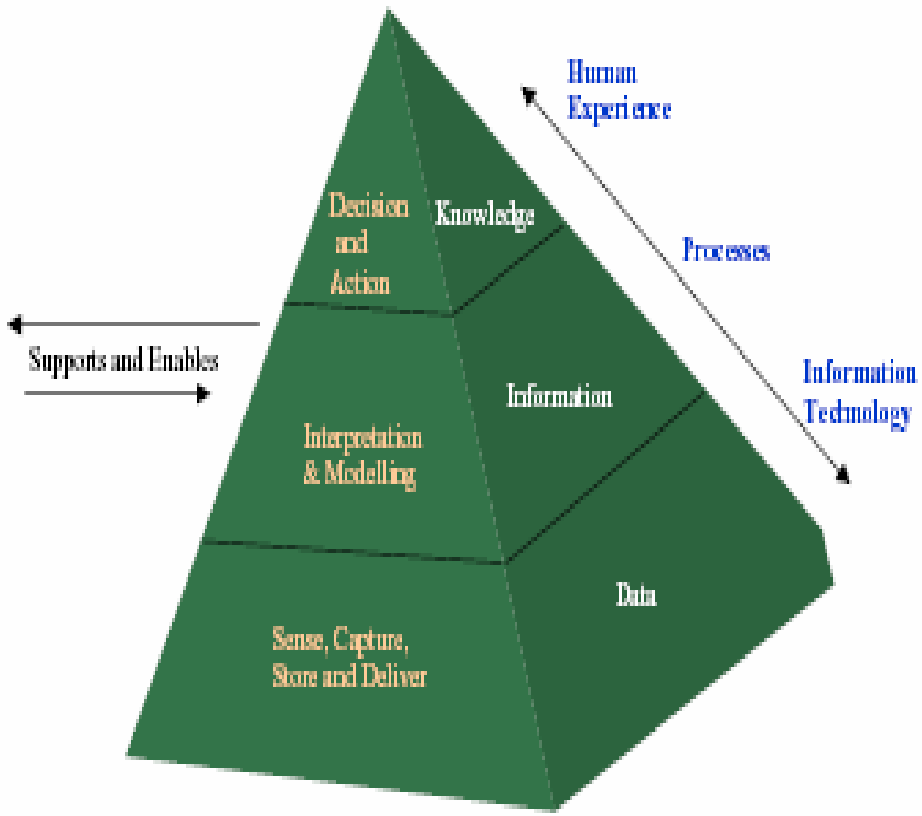
Suffering from Information Overload?
e-mail
world wide web
e-books
newspapers
e-journals
magazines
journals
books
CD-ROMs
Socrates
reference books
encyclopedias

Environmental Information

- the interdisciplinary nature of research and professional work
- the differences in how people perceive problems, propose solutions, and assign priorities
- the peaks and valleys in public-policy attention to these problems, resulting in uneven funding of research, information services, and collection development
- the dispersion of the literature in almost all types of information resources, including indexing and abstracting services, directories, specialized bibliographies, government documents, and statistical sources
- the user's need to learn how to interact with information resources and systems to determine the most useful search terms and definitions
- the ongoing proliferation of new information services and systems, which mandate sound techniques for searching and evaluation

Dosa, 1978


Government Functional Domains
Policy Development
Program Design
Service Delivery
Feedback Loop
Clients


Supports and Enables
Human Experience
Processes
Information Technology
Decision and Action
Knowledge
Information
Interpretation & Modelling
Data
Sense, Capture, Store and Deliver

Role of Librarians

- Evaluate software for data and information management
- Develop profiles of information products, research projects, business plans
- Oversee the production of reports, reference books, Web sites, and other information tools
- Develop and maintain databases
- Write articles and reports
- Provide training in the use of manual- and online data and information systems
- Develop marketing strategies for the effective delivery of products and services

Collaborations with Libraries

- Build collections
- Develop reading lists on these subjects
- Conduct book reviews and discussion groups
- Hold video series
- “Bookmark” favorite websites
- Utilize bulletin board/visual displays
- Demonstrate sustainable use and practices on library grounds

More collaboration ideas

- Conduct children's poster, poetry and essay contests
- Conduct literacy programs
- Host workshops
- Host public hearings
- Provide meeting space for community meetings community groups
  - Moderate or lead discussion on issues
- Identify and utilize the related expertise of trustees and friends of the library

Invite Librarians to:

- Visit local agencies or organizations working on issues
- Initiate outreach to local issue-oriented groups
- Meet with local officials on these issues and offer the library's assistance
- Serve on boards of local agencies and organizations
- Help organize local agencies and community groups resources
- Compile and publish a directory of public/private agencies working on these issues

Expand your outreach

- Contact librarians in sister communities in other countries to see what community sustainability challenges they're facing
- Share library information through newsletter, bulletin boards, or website
- Establish sister library relationships in other regions (state, nation, worldwide)
- Provide public access to information through Geographic Information System (GIS) technology

Community Stakeholders

- government agencies, departments, or bureaus
- elected officials
- faculty of colleges or universities
- environmental reporters/media personnel
- local business and industry environmental managers
- environmental education centers
  - museums
  - science centers
  - nature centers
  - parks and recreation centers

Professional Stakeholders

- local/regional professional organizations
  - American Chemical Society
  - American Meteorological Society (local weather forecasters and meteorologists)
  - Air & Waste Management Association
  - Sea Grant and Agricultural Extensions
  - American Geological Institute
  - Ecological Society of America
  - American Institute of Architects
  - American Planning Association

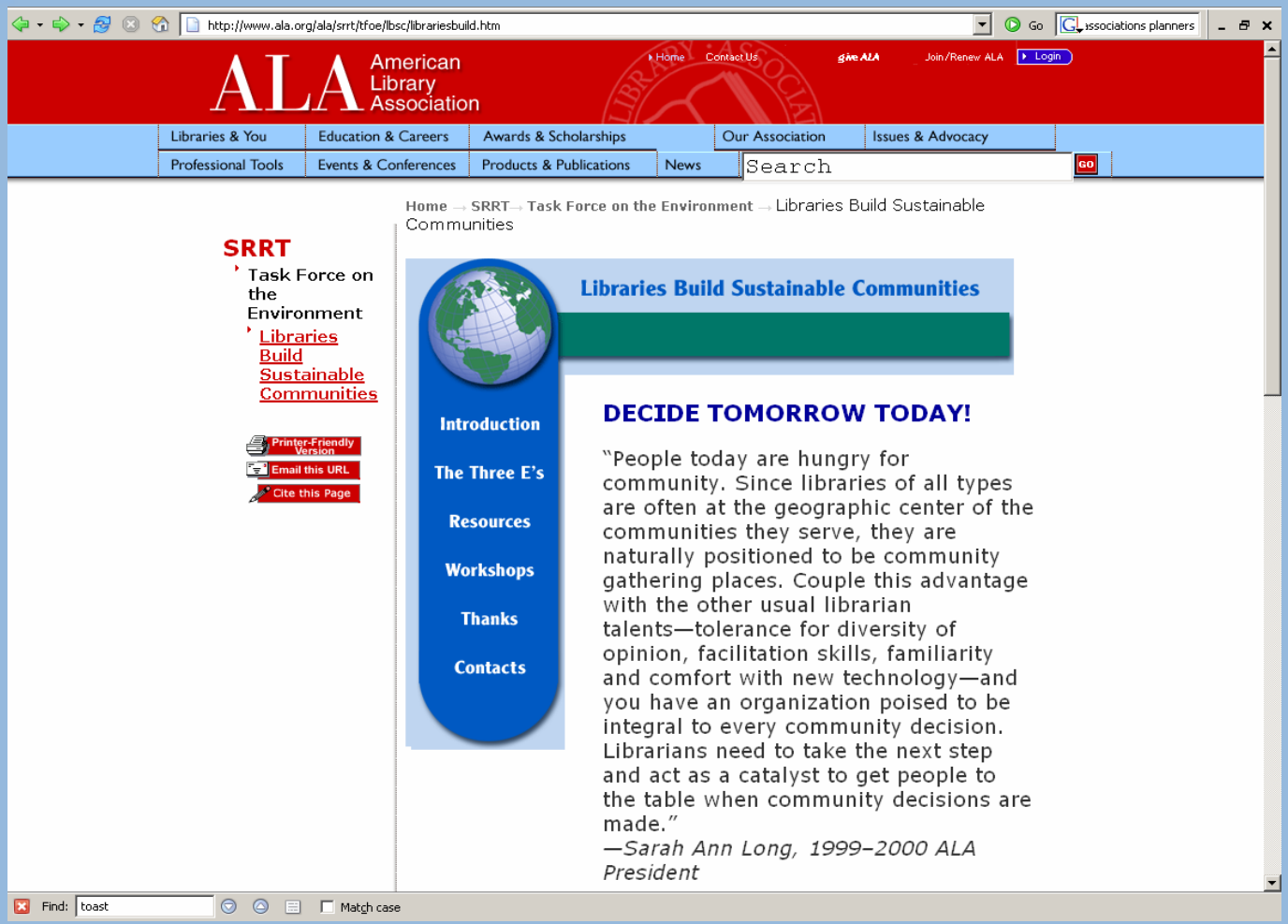
Nonprofit Collaborators

- Sierra Club
- Adirondack Mountain Club
- National Audubon
- Trout Unlimited
- National Wildlife Federation
- The Junior League
- League of Conservation Voters
- National Wildlife Federation
  - State outdoor education associations

WHY???
Provide Environmental ICE

Viable Model

www.ala.org/ala/srrt/tfoe/lbsc/librariesbuild.htm



City—Library Partnerships
Santa Monica, CA

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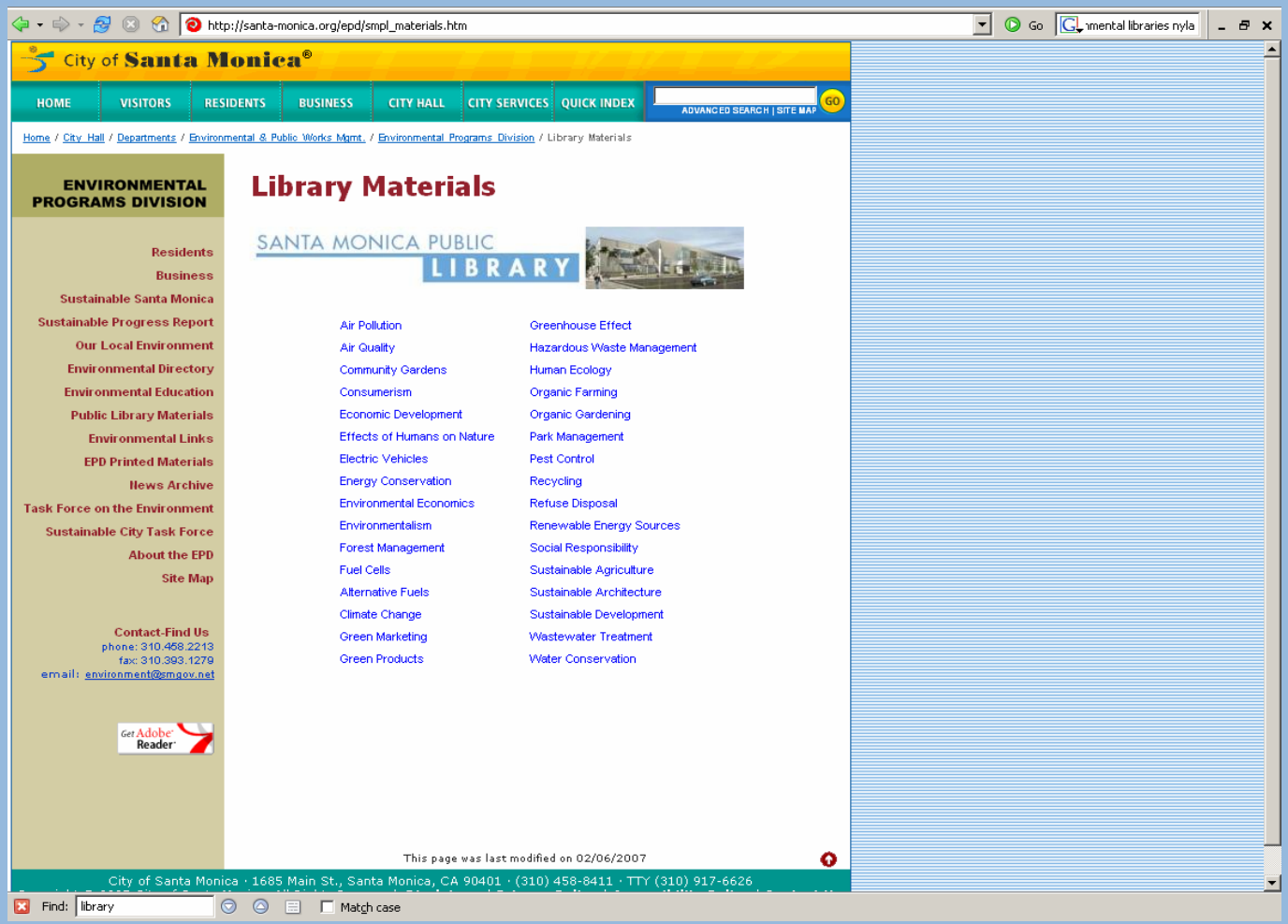
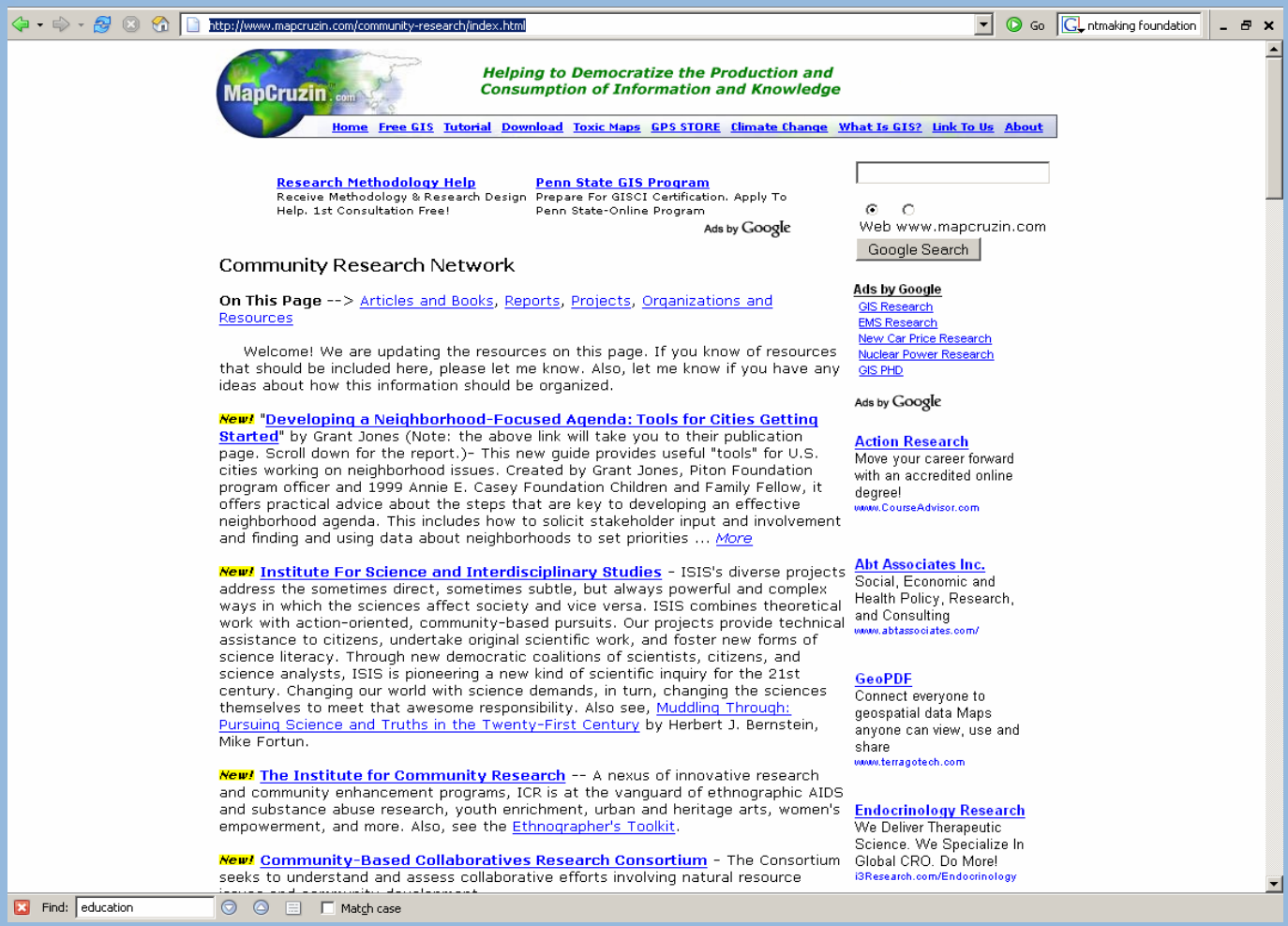
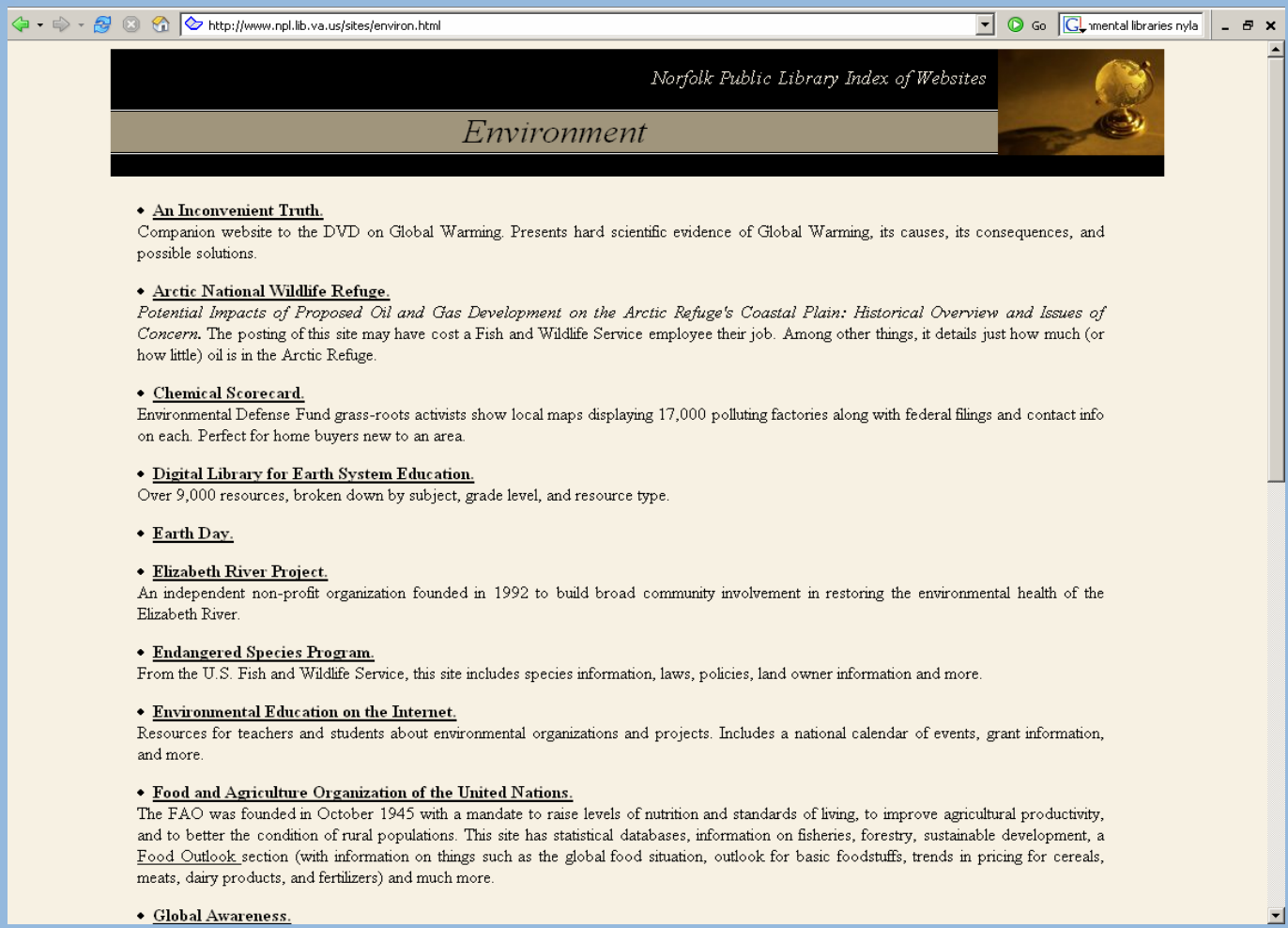


Community-based Research

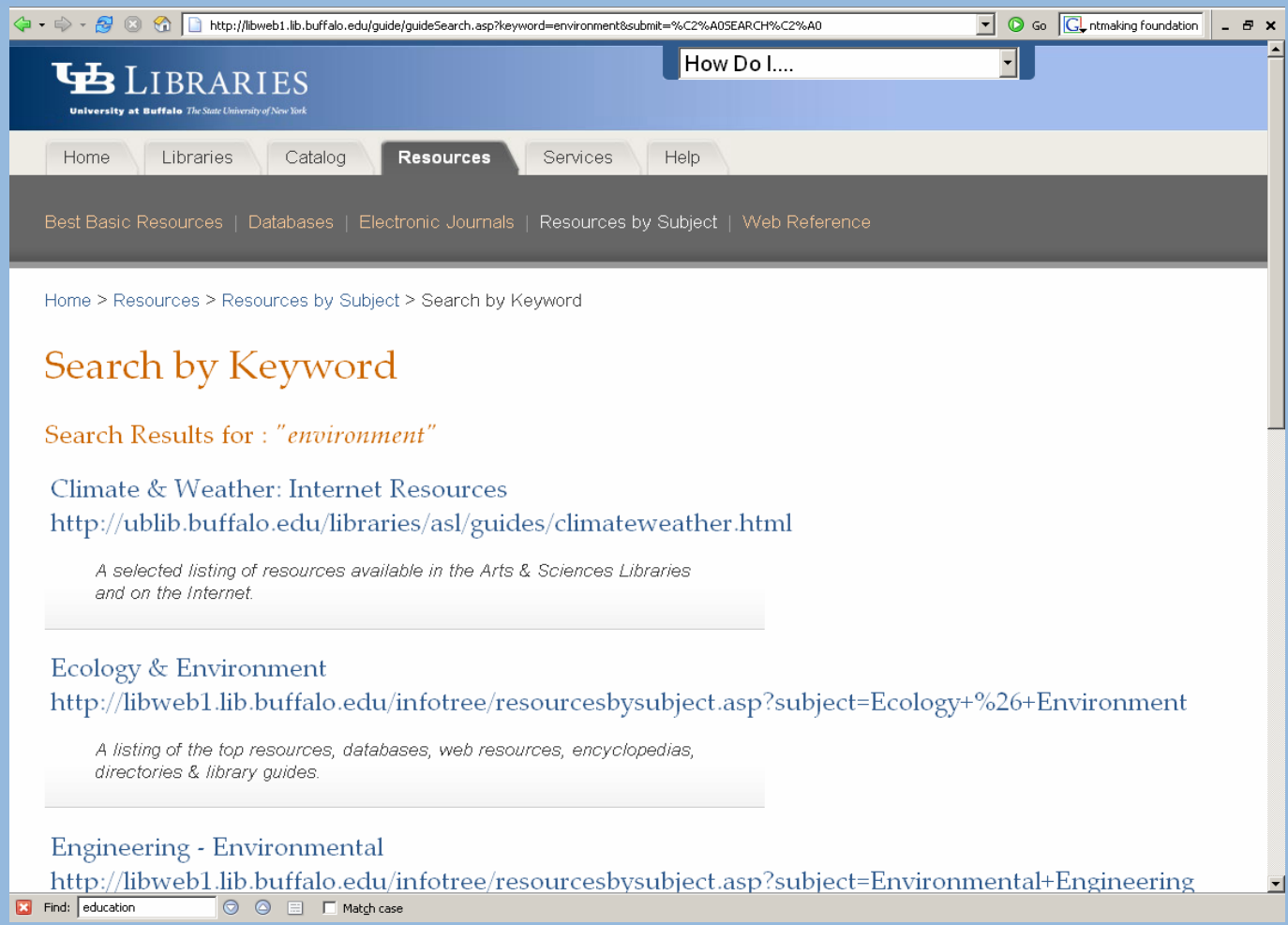
www.mapcruzin.com/community-research/index.html



Website Development
(Norfolk Public Library)



Website Development
University at Buffalo



State Library Associations

http://www.istl.org/99-fall/conf5.html

Contents

Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship | Fall 1999

URLs in this document have been updated. Links enclosed in **{curly brackets}** have been changed. If a replacement link was located, the new URL was added and the link is active; if a new site could not be identified, the broken link was removed.

Conference Reports

How Green Is My Library?
New York Library Association 1999 Annual Conference
October 27-31, 1999, Buffalo, NY

Frederick W. Stoss
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SUNY University at Buffalo
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Notes compiled by:
Walter Simpson, Debbie Jackson, Efrat Forget, Kathleen M. DeLaney, Frederick W. Stoss, John Hood
Rich Peters, Moderator **Introduction by Rich Peters (mythos@localnet.com)**

"Building Partnerships for Learning" formed the theme for the 1999 New York Library Association Annual Conference. When contemplating this theme the 30th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 1970) came to mind as a pivotal event that contributed greatly to building environmental partnerships that have shaped perceptions about our environment for three decades. The "battle cry" of the first Earth Day, "Think Globally. Act Locally!" was the setting for a comprehensive examination of several major environmental issues and how libraries play major roles by supporting our learning about complex and controversial environmental topics. "How Green Is My Library?" the title of this session, reflects a question that addresses the roles libraries play related to environmental issues and concerns.

Six presentations covered topics including intensive recycling, composting, energy efficiency, garden and community space, planning Earth Day 2000, disseminating environmental info, grants, web resources, and the Love Canal archives.

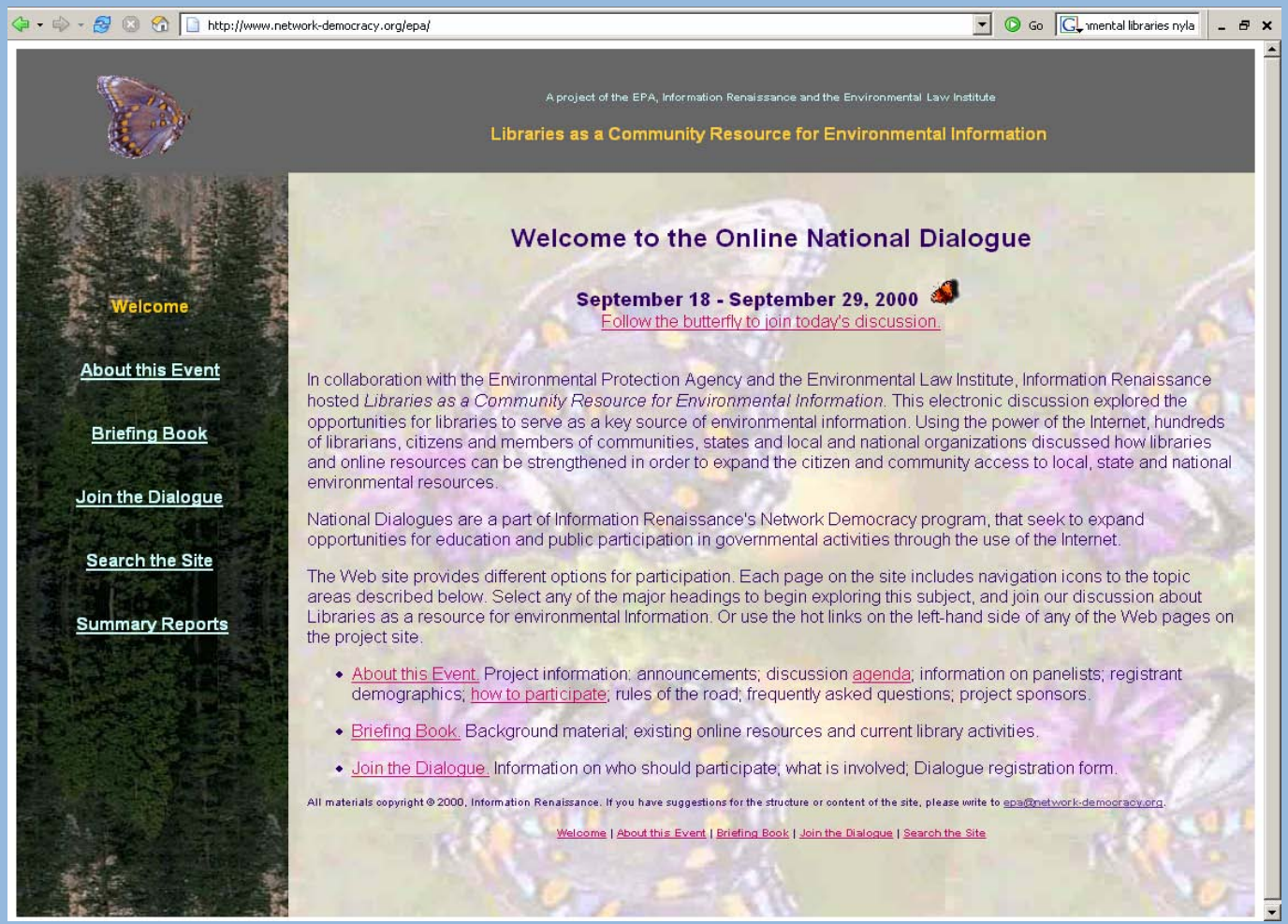
Campus Eco-Activism and Awareness
Walter Simpson (wsimpson@facilities.buffalo.edu), Energy Officer, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Much progress has been made nationally to develop the concept of 'green' college and university campuses. The designation refers to campuses which have committed themselves to principles of environmental responsibility and stewardship and active pursue programs in energy conservation, recycling, waste reduction, pollution control, green building design, and eco-literacy. Many of the steps being taken on green campuses can apply to

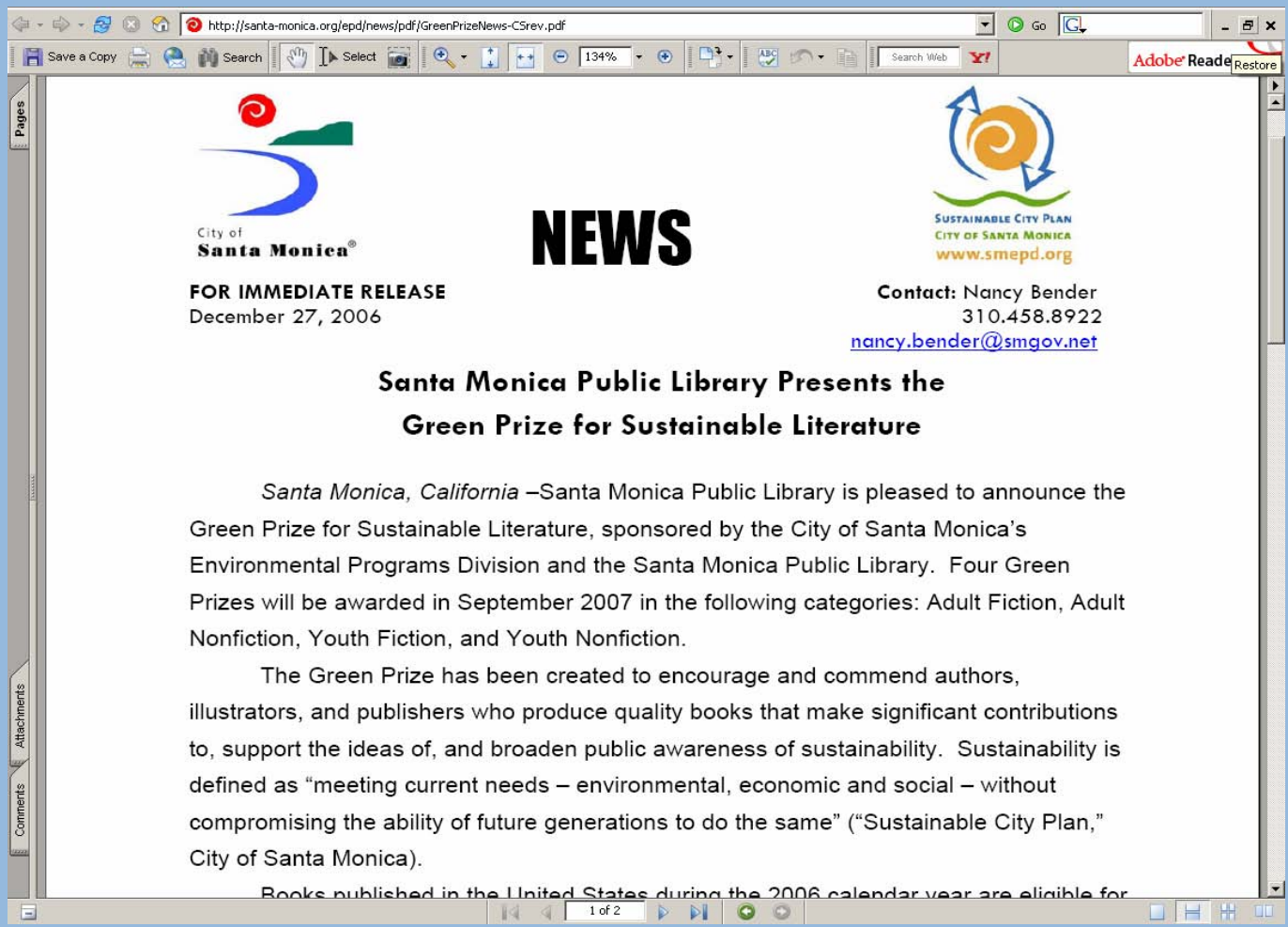
Library Networks

- **American Library Association www.ala.org**
  - Task Force on the Environment/Social Responsibilities Round Table
  - Science and Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries
  - Public Library Association, American
  - Association of School Libraries, Federal Libraries Round Table, Government Documents Round Table
- **Association of Research Libraries www.arl.org/**
- **Environmental Protection Agency National Library Network www.epa.gov/natlibra/**
- **Libraries for the Future www.lff.org**
- **Natural Resources Information Clearinghouse www.usu.edu/~cnr/quinney/nrichome.htm**
- **Special Libraries Association www.sla.org**
  - Environment and Resource Management Division
  - Science and Technology Division
- **Other State and Regional Library Associations www.ala.org/cro/comb.html**

National Dialogue (see www.wested.org, Laurie Maak)



Creative Programming
(Santa Monica, CA)



http://santa-monica.org/epd/news/pdf/GreenPrizeNews-CSrev.pdf

City of Santa Monica®

NEWS

Sustainable City Plan
City of Santa Monica
www.smepd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 27, 2006

Contact: Nancy Bender
310.458.8922
nancy.bender@smgov.net

Santa Monica Public Library Presents the Green Prize for Sustainable Literature

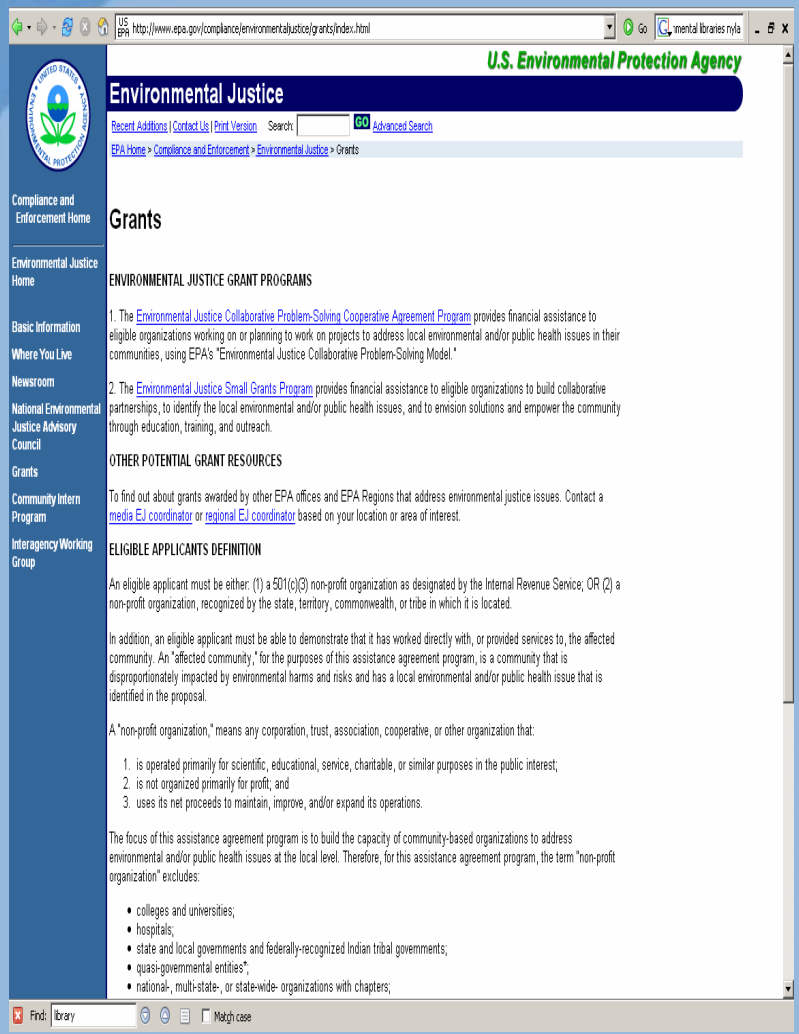
Santa Monica, California –Santa Monica Public Library is pleased to announce the Green Prize for Sustainable Literature, sponsored by the City of Santa Monica's Environmental Programs Division and the Santa Monica Public Library. Four Green Prizes will be awarded in September 2007 in the following categories: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Youth Fiction, and Youth Nonfiction.

The Green Prize has been created to encourage and commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality books that make significant contributions to, support the ideas of, and broaden public awareness of sustainability. Sustainability is defined as "meeting current needs – environmental, economic and social – without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same" ("Sustainable City Plan," City of Santa Monica).

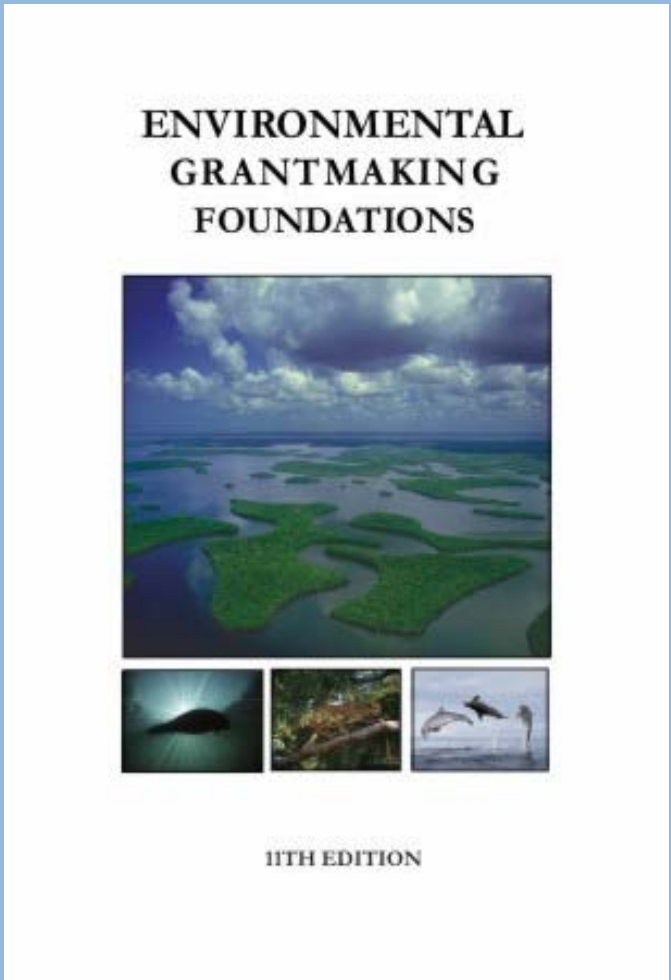
Books published in the United States during the 2006 calendar year are eligible for

1 of 2

Funding Support (EPA)

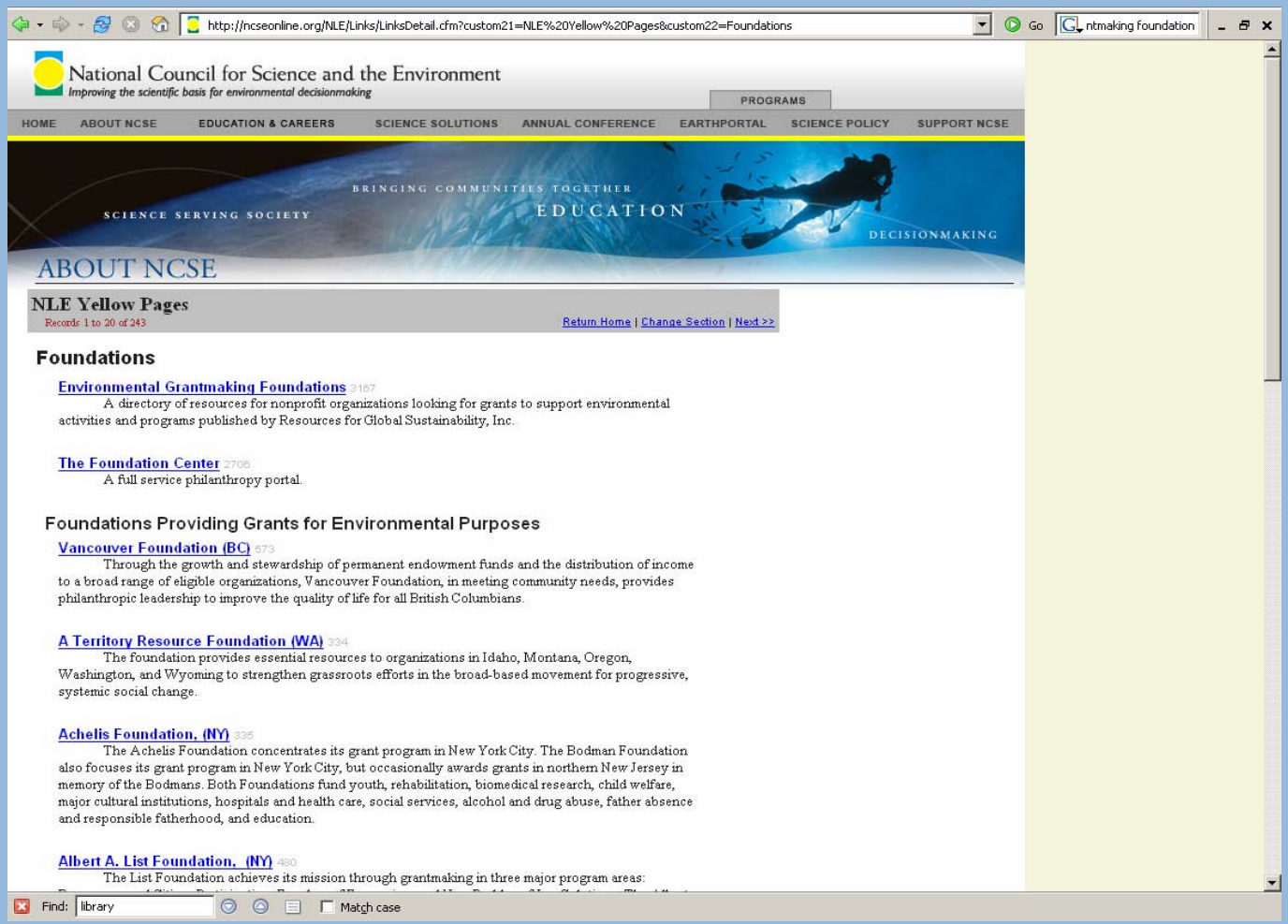


Funding Support



- **900 Funding Foundations**
  - 700 providing grants
  - $1 billion annually
- **234 Members: Environmental Grantmakers Association**
- **Foundation profiles**
  - Contact information
  - History and philosophy
  - Officers, directors, and key personnel
  - Environmental programs
  - Financial data
  - Funding analyses drawn from RGS's database
  - Listing of recent grants
  - Application process and deadlines
- **Indexes**
  - Environmental Topics & Activities
  - Environmental Issues
  - Recipient and Activity Regions
  - Emphases and Restrictions
  - Foundation Location
  - Application Deadlines

Funding Support
National Council for Science and the Environment



Goal: Assure that Everyone Can Have a Seat at the Table

Fred Stoss

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